

Message Text

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44

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BAGB, BEXP

SUBJECT: AGRI BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

REF A. 75 STATE A7008, B. KINSHASA 405 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL BUSINESSMAN, CITOYEN NYANDINDA KOLI, BASED IN UVIRA
SEARCHING FINANCING FOR TWO PROJECTS, WHICH, AT FIRST GLANCE,
SEEM TO FALL UNDER PURVIEW OF REF A. PROJECTS ARE: 1) PARTIAL
OR FULL RESTORATION OF TEXTILE MILL LOCATED IN BUKAVU; AND 2)
ESTABLISHMENT/CONSTRUCTION OF TOMATO PROCESSING FACTORY NEAR
UVIRA.

2. TEXTILE MILL PROJECT APPEARS TO INEXPERT EYE OF REPORTING OFFICER
TO HAVE POSSIBILITIES. IT WAS ABANDONED IN 1967 DURING MERCENARY
REBELLION AND HAS NOT OPERATES SINCE. FORMERLY OWENED/OPERATED
UNDER NAME OF TEXIKIVU BY BELGIAN, A.J. DE WAELE, NOW REPORTEDLY
DECEASED, MILL WAS ONLY ONE IN EASTERN ZAIRE CAPABLE OF TRANS-
FORMING RAW COTTON INTO FINISHED PRODUCTS. WHEN IN FULL PRODUCTION,
MILL EMPLOYED SOME 400 WORKERS. BUILDING AND MACHINERY LARGELY
INTACT. MUCH OF MACHINERY, IN FACT, CRATED UP FOR SHIPMENT.
ACCORDING TO NYANDINDA, GROUP IN KALEMIE ATTEMPTED SHIP EQUIPMENT
SOUTH IN 1974 IN EFFORT TO START TEXTILE PRODUCTION THERE. EFFORT
DEFEATED AT BEHEST OF REGIONAL AUTHORITIES WHO SAW NO REASON TO
FURTHER ECONOMY OF ANOTHER REGION. BRAND NAMES OF MACHINERY
INCLUDE:
LORD BROS., PLATT BROS., HOWARD AND BULLOUGH, THEMA, TWEEDALES AND
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SMALLEY AND MAHY FRERES. ACCORDING NYANDINDA, MOST OF ORIGINAL STAFF

STILL IN BUKAVU AREA.

3. AMOUNT OF FINANCING NECESSARY UNCLEAR. NYANDINDA ENVISAGES ONLY PARTIAL USE OF MILL'S CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE SUCH ITEMS AS T-SHIRTS AND COTTON CLOTH. COTTON TO BE OBTAINED FROM FACTORY AT UVIRA WHICH CAN PARTIALLY PROCESS RAW COTTON GROWN IN AREA. NYANDINDA SAYS THAT REGIONAL AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED CEDE FACTORY TO HIM IF HE CAN PROVE ADEQUATE FINANCING. SAYS HE CANNOT OBTAIN LOCAL FINANCING WITHOUT PROOF OF ABILITY TO OBTAIN FOREIGN EXCHANGE NECESSARY TO REHABILITATE MACHINERY.

4. TOMATO PROCESSING PLANT PROJECT LESS WELL DEVELOPED. SIMILAR PROJECT BACKED BY EUROPEL INTERESTS ALREADY ANNOUNCED FOR GOMA AREA APPROXIMATELY 60 MILES NORTH OF BUKAVU (UVIRA IS APPROXIMATELY 70 MILES SOUTH OF BUKAVU) WHICH WILL REQUIRE, ACCORDING TO RECENT PRESS RELEASE IN SALONGO, ABOUT \$4 MILLION. NO QUESTION THAT TOMATOES WILL DO WELL IN EITHER AREA. REPORTING OFFICER HAS BEEN IN UVIRA AREA ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND HAS NEVER NOTED SCARCITY FRESH VEGETABLES.

ADVANTAGE OF LOCATION SUCH FACILITY IN UVIRA AREA WOULD BE WELL-DEVELOPED BOAT-RAIL ROUTE TO INDIAN OCEAN FOR EXPORT PURPOSES AT FUTURE DATE PLUS IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO MARKET IN BUJUMBURA, CITY OF SOME 80,000 IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRY, TWENTY MILES AWAY. AGAIN NYANDINDA WOULD PROVIDE LAND/BUILDINGS CEDED HIM BY STATE, AND EVENTUAL FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAS 5 AND 9 OF REF B.

5. REPORTING OFFICER PLANS TRAVEL UVIRA AREA IN NEAR FUTURE AND WILL PHOTOGRAPH INTENDED SITE OF TOMATO PROCESSING PLANT. HAS ALREADY TAKEN SOME PHOTOS OF ABANDONED TEXTILE AND WILL FORWARD IF DESIRED.

6. NYANDINDA IS ZAIRIAN BORN IN 1951. OWNS TWO TRUCKS FOR CARTAGE OF SUPPLIES (MOSTLY LOCAL BEER) BETWEEN UVIRA AND BUKAVU, ONE TAXI AND A CLOTHING STORE IN UVIRA. HAS, ACCORDING TO HIM, ONLY TENUOUS CONNECTION WITH LOCAL INDIAN/PAKASTANI BUSINESSMEN.

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